

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (presently amended) A raincoat for preventing a user from becoming wet by rainfall, and also for preventing at least one item which is being carried by the user from becoming wet by rainfall, said user having a body having a head having a back and a top of the head, having a face having a chin, a neck, a torso, two arms each having a hand, and two legs each having a foot, said raincoat to be selectively worn over the existing clothing of the user, comprising:

a front, a back, a top, a bottom, two opposing lateral sides, an internally oriented surface which contacts the body of the user while the raincoat is being worn by the user, an externally oriented surface substantially constructed from a waterproof material, the externally oriented surface of the raincoat has a chest pocket opening and a pants pocket opening, for allowing the user to access the existing clothing of the user without having to fully open the raincoat and thereby expose the body of the user to rainfall, a chest portion for completely shielding the torso of the user from rainfall, and a leg portion for completely shielding the legs of the user from rainfall; and

a single sleeve extending from one of the lateral sides of the raincoat in proximity to the top of the raincoat, through which one of the arms of the user selectively extends,

said sleeve for selectively preventing said arm of the user from becoming wet by rainfall, and wherein the arm which is not extended through the sleeve remains within and is covered by the raincoat, thereby shielding said arm and the hand attached to said arm from rainfall, and thereby allowing the user to carry the at least one item within said hand and thereby also prevent the at least one item from becoming wet from rainfall; and

a selectively sealable arm opening positioned in proximity to the top of the lateral side of the raincoat opposed to the lateral side from which the sleeve extends, said arm opening for enabling the user to retrieve the at least one item carried by the arm and the hand of the user which do not extend through the sleeve by using the hand of the arm which does extend through the sleeve.

2. (canceled)

3. (canceled)

4. (presently amended) The raincoat as recited in claim 1 3, wherein the back of the raincoat has a hood compartment, in proximity to the collar, having a hood selectively stored therein, the hood for selectively covering the back and top of the head of

the user, and also for substantially covering the neck of the user, thereby protecting the neck and head of the user from becoming wet by rainfall.

5. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 4, wherein the front of the raincoat has a substantially centrally located, vertically oriented zipper, extending from the top to the bottom of the raincoat, for allowing the user to selectively close the raincoat during use.

6. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 5, wherein the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening each have an associated flap for selectively covering said openings, for preventing rainfall from entering into the raincoat.

7. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 6, wherein the zipper has an associated zipper flap which selectively overlays the zipper, thereby preventing rainfall from entering the raincoat through the zipper.

8. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 7, wherein the flaps associated with the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening each have a strip of fastening material attached thereunto, and wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat has corresponding strips of fastening material suitably positioned for selectively engaging the strips of fastening

material on said flaps, in order to create a waterproof seal when said flaps are used to cover the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening.

9. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 8, wherein the zipper flap has a strip of fastening material running along a portion of its length, and wherein the raincoat has a strip of fastening material in proximity to the zipper flap for selectively engaging the fastening material on the zipper flap after the zipper flap has been overlaid upon the zipper.

10. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 9, wherein the hood compartment has a zipper for selectively closing the hood compartment when the hood is being stored therein.

11. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 10, wherein the raincoat is substantially full-length, and covers the user substantially from the neck to the feet of the user, with the exception of the hands of the user.

12. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 11, wherein the hood has a substantially oval face opening through which the face of the user protrudes during use, wherein the face opening has an elastic strip around its perimeter, thereby ensuring that the head of the user remains dry even during very heavy rainfall.

13. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 12, wherein the

hood is equipped with a chinstrap for selectively firmly anchoring the hood to the chin and head of the user.

14. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 13, further comprising a substantially circular collar which substantially encircles the neck of the user while the raincoat is being worn.

15. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 14, wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat is substantially constructed from a vinyl material.

16. (original) The raincoat as recited in claim 14, wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat is substantially constructed from a plastic material.

17. (original) A method of protecting both the person of a user and at least one item carried within a hand of the user from becoming wet by rainfall, said user having a body having a head having a face having a chin, a neck, a torso, two arms each having a hand, and two legs each having a lower part and each having a foot, said user carrying at least one item within one of the hands of the user, said method utilizing a raincoat having a front, a back, a top, a bottom, two opposing lateral sides, an externally oriented surface, and a single sleeve extending from one of the lateral sides in proximity to the top of the raincoat, the raincoat further having an arm opening positioned in proximity to the top of the lateral side of the raincoat opposed to the lateral

side from which the sleeve extends, a chest pocket opening, and a pants pocket opening, wherein the chest pocket opening and the pants pocket opening each have an associated flap having a strip of fastening material attached thereunto, and wherein the externally oriented surface of the raincoat has corresponding strips of fastening material suitably positioned for selectively engaging the strips of fastening material on said flaps, wherein the front of the raincoat has a zipper having an associated zipper flap having a strip of fastening material, wherein the raincoat has a strip of fastening material in proximity to the zipper flap, wherein the back of the raincoat has a hood compartment having a hood having a chinstrap selectively stored therein, said method comprising the steps of:

extending one of the arms of the user through the sleeve;

covering the body of the user from the neck substantially to the feet with the raincoat;

closing the zipper on the front of the raincoat in order to completely cover and protect the torso and legs of the user from falling rain;

overlaying the zipper flap over the zipper;

securing the zipper flap by mating the fastening material on the zipper flap with the corresponding strip of fastening material

on the raincoat;

closing the chest pocket opening, the pants pocket opening, and the arm opening with their associated flaps;

securing said flaps by mating the fastening material of the flaps with the corresponding strips of fastening material located on the raincoat;

extending the hood of the raincoat over the head of the user in order to protect the head and also the neck of the user from falling rain;

securing the chinstrap underneath the chin of the user;

carrying the at least one item within the hand and arm of the user which does not extend through the sleeve, while shielding the at least one item by the raincoat;

retrieving an item carried by the arm and hand of the user which are shielded underneath the raincoat, by disengaging the fastening material of the flap associated with the arm opening from the underlying strip of fastening material on the raincoat, by extending the arm which is covered by the sleeve through the arm opening, and by using the hand attached to said arm to grasp and retrieve the at least one item; and

walking during periods of rain without exposing either
the body or the at least one item held by the user to rainfall.